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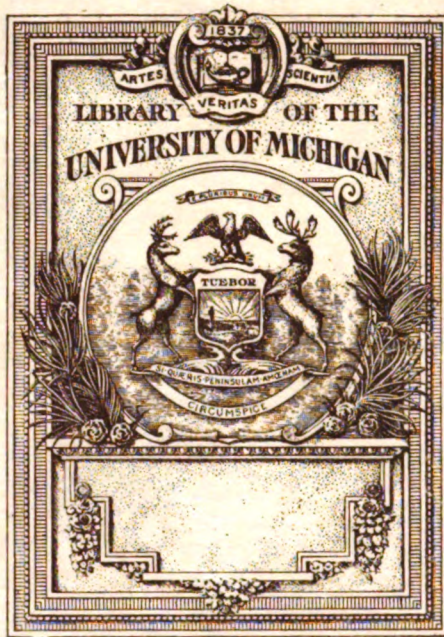
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Gt. Brit. foreign office.

Correspondence respecting the employment of
British and German prisoners of war.



THE GIFT OF
Sir Gilbert Parker

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MISCELLANEOUS. No. 19 (1916).

St. Paul Foreign Office

CORRESPONDENCE

RESPECTING THE

EMPLOYMENT OF BRITISH AND GERMAN
PRISONERS OF WAR

IN

POLAND AND FRANCE RESPECTIVELY.

*Presented to both Houses of Parliament by Command of His Majesty.
June 1916.*

LONDON :

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Correspondence respecting the Employment of British
and German Prisoners of War in Poland and France
respectively.

No. 1.

Sir Edward Grey to Sir C. Spring-Rice.

Sir,

Foreign Office, April 4, 1916.

I GAVE Mr. Page to-day the following memorandum on the employment of German prisoners in France. I added that facilities would be given for their inspection if the American Embassy here wished to arrange for their inspection, either themselves or through whoever had charge of German interests in France.

I am, &c.
E. GREY.

Enclosure in No. 1.

Memorandum respecting the Employment of German Prisoners in France.

HIS Majesty's Government have decided to transfer a number of German combatant prisoners of war from internment camps in the United Kingdom to France in order that they may be available for employment in the latter country.

The first batch will be despatched to Rouen on the 5th April and will consist of 750 prisoners. They will be employed on work at the port.

A second batch will be sent to Havre at a later date for similar employment.

These are the only German prisoners of war who are being sent out of the United Kingdom for the present.

They will be engaged under British supervision in clearing cargo ships of goods, other than munitions of war, in order to relieve the congestion of the ports, or on other work which does not include the handling in any way of munitions of war.

Foreign Office, April 4, 1916.

No. 2.

Sir Edward Grey to Sir C. Spring-Rice.

Sir,

Foreign Office, April 27, 1916.

WITH reference to my despatch of the 4th April, I transmit to your Excellency herewith a copy of a memorandum handed to the United States Ambassador to-day, from which your Excellency will observe that 1,450 German combatant prisoners of war have been despatched to France to work, and that a further 500 are to be despatched to France on the 6th proximo.

I am, &c.
E. GREY.

Enclosure in No. 2.

Memorandum.

THE present situation in regard to the transfer of German prisoners of war from the United Kingdom for employment in France is as follows:—

750 were despatched to Rouen on the 5th instant, 700 to Havre on the 26th, whilst a further party of 500 will be despatched to the latter place on the 6th May.

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Staff and guarding troops accompanied the party on each occasion.

The treatment of a "camp" in France will be precisely similar to that which obtains in England.

Foreign Office, April 27, 1916.

No. 3.

*Mr. Page, United States Ambassador in London, to Sir Edward Grey.—
(Received May 16.)*

THE American Ambassador presents his compliments to His Majesty's Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs, and, with reference to Sir E. Grey's memoranda of the 4th April and the 27th April, regarding the transfer of German combatant prisoners of war from internment camps in the United Kingdom to France, in order that they may be available for employment in the latter country, has the honour to acquaint Sir E. Grey with the text of a telegram received from the Embassy at Berlin as follows:—

"Your letters the 5th and 26th April, transfer of German prisoners of war to France. The Foreign Office states in view of this transfer German military authorities have decided to send 2,000 British prisoners of war to work in Russian territory under German occupation."

Mr. Page ventures to add that the letters of the 5th and 26th April referred to in the foregoing telegram transmitted to the Embassy at Berlin the substance of Sir E. Grey's memoranda of the 4th and 27th April respectively.*

*American Embassy, London,
May 15, 1916.*

* A draft of the memorandum enclosed in No. 2 had been handed unofficially to a member of the United States Embassy on the 26th April.

No. 4.

Mr. Page to Sir Edward Grey.—(Received May 16.)

THE American Ambassador presents his compliments to His Majesty's Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs, and, with reference to Sir E. Grey's memoranda of the 4th April and the 27th April respectively, regarding the transfer of German prisoners of war from the United Kingdom for employment in France, has the honour to acquaint Sir E. Grey that a communication has been received from the Embassy at Paris to the effect that arrangements will be made to have the various dépôts visited by representatives of the Embassy at Paris as soon as possible, and assuming that instructions have been given to the officers in command of those dépôts so that the representatives of the Paris Embassy will be allowed to inspect the dépôts upon presenting themselves.

It is stated that, as an identification, the Embassy's representatives will present to the officer in command a certificate by the Ambassador, bearing the Embassy's seal, identical with the model enclosed.

*American Embassy, London,
May 15, 1916.*

Enclosure in No. 4.

THE bearer, Mr. *Paris*....., attached to the American Embassy at Paris, is directed to visit the British internment dépôts for German prisoners of war in France. I will be obliged for all facilities which may be accorded to Mr. *Paris*..... by the British authorities.

.....
American Ambassador.

No. 5.

Mr. Page to Sir Edward Grey.—(Received May 23.)

THE American Ambassador presents his compliments to His Majesty's Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs, and, with reference to his communication of the 15th May, acquainting Sir E. Grey with the text of a telegram received from the embassy at Berlin relative to the transfer of German combatant prisoners of war from internment camps in the United Kingdom to France, has the honour to transmit herewith a copy of the *note verbale* from the Imperial Foreign Office, dated the 10th May, 1916, upon which this telegram was based.

*American Embassy, London,
May 22, 1916.*

Enclosure in No. 5.

Note verbale.

WITH reference to the *notes verbales* of the 8th and 29th ultimo, the Foreign Office begs the United States Embassy to bring the following to the knowledge of the British Government through the channel of the American Embassy in London.

When the British Government had a considerable number of German prisoners of war transferred from the camps in England to work in France, the German military authorities gave orders for the transfer of 2,000 English prisoners of war from the German camps to the parts of Russian territory in the occupation of the German troops. These prisoners will be put to work under the same conditions as those that obtain in the case of the prisoners transferred from England to France.

Berlin, May 10, 1916.

No. 6.

Sir Edward Grey to Mr. Page.

THE Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs presents his compliments to the United States Ambassador, and, with reference to his Excellency's note of the 15th instant,* relative to the visits which will be paid by representatives of the United States Ambassador at Paris to dépôts in France to which German prisoners of war have been transferred from this country, has the honour to state that the necessary instructions have been despatched by His Majesty's Government in order to ensure that such inspections shall take place under the same conditions as those which obtain in the United Kingdom.

Foreign Office, May 25, 1916.

* See No. 4.

No. 7.

Sir Edward Grey to Mr. Page.

THE Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs presents his compliments to the United States Ambassador, and has the honour to refer to his Excellency's notes of the 15th and 22nd instant,* from which he learns that, in view of the recent transfer of German prisoners of war from this country to work in France, the German military authorities have decided to send 2,000 British prisoners of war to Russian territory under German occupation, where they will be put to work under the same conditions.

In the memorandum which Sir E. Grey had the honour to hand to Mr. Page on the 4th ultimo,† information was furnished as to the nature of the work on which the German prisoners were to be employed, under British supervision, in France, and on

* See Nos. 3 and 5.

† See No. 1.

that occasion Sir E. Grey gave to his Excellency a verbal assurance that facilities would be afforded for their inspection by representatives of the United States Embassy or of such other neutral Government as might be in charge of German interests in France, and, as is shown by Mr. Page's further note of the 15th instant, the necessary arrangements to this effect are already in progress towards completion.

Mr. Page is further aware from Sir E. Grey's note of the 25th instant* that instructions have been sent by His Majesty's Government to ensure that such inspection shall take place under the same conditions as those which obtain in the United Kingdom.

Sir E. Grey will therefore be greatly obliged if the United States Ambassador at Berlin can be requested to be good enough to inform the German Government that His Majesty's Government assume that the arrangements in regard to the internment and inspection of the prisoners of war transferred from the United Kingdom and Germany respectively to French and Russian territory will be strictly reciprocal, and to take the requisite steps to ascertain at as early a date as may be possible the districts to which British prisoners are to be sent, the work on which it is proposed that they shall be employed, and whether satisfactory facilities will be afforded to members of his Excellency's staff to visit the working camps when desirable.

Sir E. Grey ventures to express the hope that it may be found possible to arrange for an inspection of the British prisoners very shortly after their arrival at their destination, and he would suggest for Mr. Gerard's consideration that it might prove of great advantage if one of the doctors now attached to his Excellency's staff could be delegated to reside for this purpose at some place in Russian territory under German occupation so long as British prisoners of war are interned in that territory.

Foreign Office, May 29, 1916.

* See No. 6.

MISCELLANEOUS. No. 19 (1916).

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